

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder, in which a layer of ionic molecule having two or more ionic functional group is laminated on the surface of a base powder particle, a layer of water-swellaable clay mineral is laminated thereon, and the layers are sequentially laminated so that the surface charge or the ionic charge of each layer is alternately positive and negative.
2. (Original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 1, wherein the ionic molecule is a polymer electrolyte.
3. (Previously Presented) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 1 wherein the primary particle diameter of the water-swellaable clay mineral is 0.5 μm or less.
4. (Previously Presented) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 1 wherein the average particle diameter of the base powder is 0.1 to 1000 μm .

5. (Previously Presented) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 1 wherein a functional molecule, which having opposite charge to the surface charge of outermost water-swellaable clay mineral or the ionic charge of outermost ionic molecules, is adsorbed on the outermost surface of the laminated powder.

6. (Original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 5, wherein the water-swellaable clay mineral is located on the outermost surface of the laminated powder, and a cationic functional molecule is adsorbed to the ion exchange group on the surface of the water-swellaable clay mineral on the outermost surface.

7. (Original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 6, wherein the cationic functional molecule is an alkyl ammonium salt.

8. (Previously Presented) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 6 wherein the amount of the adsorbed cationic functional molecule in the laminated powder is 0.01 to 10 weight%.

9. (Previously Presented) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 1 wherein the water-swellaable clay mineral is a water-swellaable clay mineral in which other molecules intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellaable clay mineral.

10. (Original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 9, wherein the water-swellaable clay mineral is a water-swellaable clay mineral in which polyhydric alcohol intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellaable clay mineral.

11. (Original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 9, wherein the water-swellaable clay mineral is a water-swellaable clay mineral in which water-soluble polymer intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellaable clay mineral.

12. (Previously Presented) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 1 wherein the water-swellaable clay mineral is a dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex in which dye and water-swellaable clay mineral are complexed.

13. (Original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 12, wherein the dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex is a complex in which polybase and/or nonionic hydrophilic polymer and dye are complexed to water-swellaable clay mineral.

14. (Original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 13, wherein the dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex is a complex in which polybase and acid dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellaable clay mineral.

15. (Previously Presented) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 14, wherein the polybase is a polybase having quaternary ammonium group in the molecule.

16. (Original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 13, wherein the dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex is a complex in which nonionic hydrophilic polymer and water-soluble dye are complexed to water-swellaable clay mineral.

17. (Original) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 16, wherein the dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex is a complex in which nonionic hydrophilic polymer and water-soluble dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellaable clay mineral.

18. (Previously Presented) The water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 16 wherein the water-soluble dye is an acid dye.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a water-swellaable clay mineral laminated powder comprising; an ionic molecule adsorption process for an ionic molecule is adsorbed on a base powder surface, wherein a base powder particle is dispersed in an aqueous solution of an ionic molecule having two or more ionic functional group with the opposite charge to the charge of the base powder; and a water-swellaable clay mineral adsorption process for a water-swellaable clay mineral is

adsorbed on the powder surface, wherein the powder particle after the adsorption of the ionic molecule is dispersed in an aqueous solution of the water-swelling clay mineral having opposite charge to the ionic charge of the ionic molecule of the powder particle surface.

20. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic comprising the water-swelling clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 1.

21. (Original) A dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex, in which polybase and/or nonionic hydrophilic polymer and dye are complexed to water-swelling clay mineral.

22. (Original) The dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex according to claim 21, wherein polybase and acid dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swelling clay mineral.

23. (Currently Amended) The dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex according to claim 22, wherein the ~~polybase~~polybase is a polybase having quaternary ammonium group in the molecule.

24. (Original) The dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex according to claim 21, wherein nonionic hydrophilic polymer and water-soluble dye are complexed to water-swelling clay mineral.

25. (Original) The dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex according to claim 24, wherein nonionic hydrophilic polymer and water-soluble dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellaable clay mineral.
26. (Previously Presented) The dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex according to claim 24 wherein the water-soluble dye is an acid dye.
27. (Previously Presented) The dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex according to claim 21 wherein the primary particle diameter of the water-swellaable clay mineral is 1 μm or less.
28. (Previously Presented) A pigment composition comprising the dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex according to claim 21.
29. (Previously Presented) A water-based coloring agent consisting of the dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex according to claim 21.
30. (Previously Presented) A water-based composition comprising the dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex according to claim 21.
31. (Previously Presented) A water-based cosmetic comprising the dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex according to claim 21.

32. (Original) An acid dye laminated pigment, in which a dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex, which having opposite charge to the charge of a base powder, is coated on the surface of the base powder, and a polybase and an acid dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellaable clay mineral of the dye/water-swellaable clay mineral complex.

33. (Original) The acid dye laminated pigment according to claim 32, wherein one or more layer of the acid dye /water-swellaable clay mineral complex is further laminated on the surface of the acid dye laminated pigment, and a layer of an ionic molecule, which having opposite surface charge to the charge of the acid dye/ water-swellaable clay mineral complex, exists in between the each layers of the acid dye/ water-swellaable clay mineral complex.

34. (Previously Presented) The acid dye laminated pigment according to claim 32 wherein the primary particle diameter of the water-swellaable clay mineral is 1 μm or less.

35. (Previously Presented) The acid dye laminated pigment according to claim 32, wherein the average particle diameter of the base powder is 0.1 to 1000 μm .

36. (Previously Presented) The acid dye laminated pigment according to claim 32 wherein the surface of the acid dye laminated pigment is further treated to be hydrophobic.

37. (Original) A producing method of an acid dye laminated pigment comprising; an acid dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex producing process for an acid dye is intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellaable clay mineral, wherein a polybase and an acid dye is contacted to a water-swellaable clay mineral in aqueous phase; and laminating process for the acid dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex is electrostatically adsorbed on the surface of a base powder, wherein obtained acid dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex and a base powder, which having opposite charge to the charge of the complex, are mixed in aqueous phase.

38. (Previously Presented) A pigment composition comprising the acid dye laminated pigment according to claim 32.

39. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic comprising the acid dye laminated pigment according to claim 32.